

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/047,741

Examiner

Michael N. Opsasnick

Applicant(s)

THOMPSON, SCOTT A.

Art Unit

2655

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 11/8/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-7,9-15,17-22 and 24-27.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

WAYNE YOUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-7,9-15,17-22,24-27 are allowable over the prior art of record.

2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

The recited claim limitations of claims 1,9,11,19 pertaining to the measurement of the time differential between an audio prompt presented to a user and the barge-in time of the user, and using that time differential to influence the confidence score of the speech recognition results of the user's spoken utterance during barge-in, is not explicitly taught by the prior art of record.

With respect to the prior art of record, barge-in technology is notoriously well known in the art of speech recognition. Nguyen (5765130 teaches detection of barge-in time. Mitchell et al., (6574595) teaches declaration of barge-in when the speech recognition is complete (fig. 2b). Johnson et al., (5155760) teaches the onset of speech used to stop the prompt of audible messages. Setlur et al., (5956675) teaches computing speech recognition likelihood scores to improve upon the barge-in time. Yuschik (6526382) teaches training the system for a user response within a period of time (col. 11 lines 50-63). Holthouse et al., (6606598) teaches a time measurement of speech duration during barge-in, but it does not affect confidence scores (Fig. 2f). Immarco et al., (5991726) teaches a barge-in switch based upon a previous input (abstract, Fig. 1). However, none of the prior art of record explicitly teaches the claim limitations of

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claims 3,9,13,21, and 24, as noted above. Furthermore, it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art of speech recognized barge-in systems to modify the teachings of the prior art of record to obtain the recited limitations of the claims noted above.

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael Opsasnick, telephone number (571)272-7623, who is available Tuesday-Thursday, 9am-4pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mr. Wayne Young, can be reached at (571)272-7582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



WAYNE YOUNG
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

mno

2/1/06



REPLACEMENT SHEET

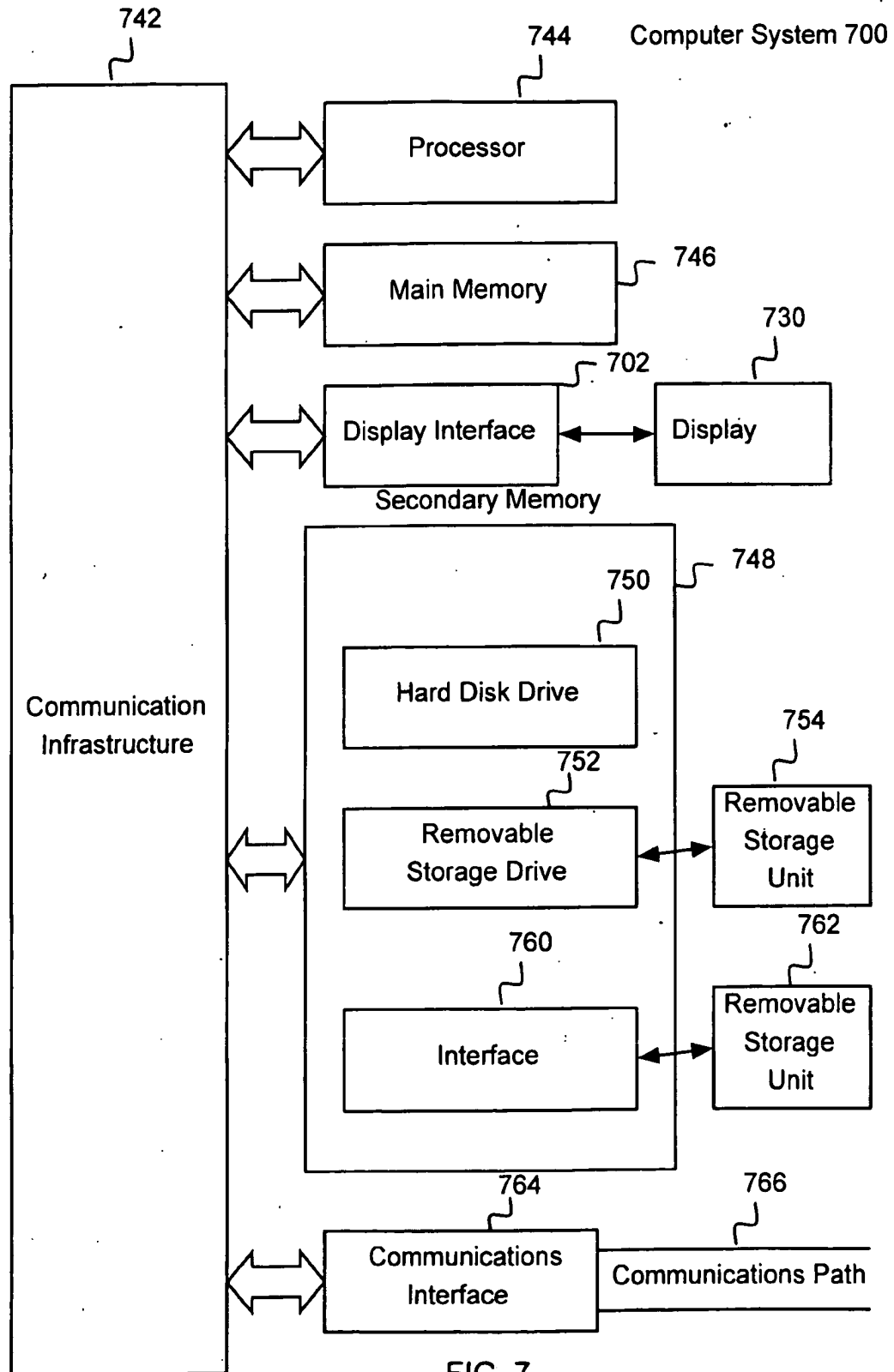


FIG. 7

OK
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